

## **MTM/VF EIS**

### **Community Narrative: Werth, West Virginia**

**Interviewer:** Why don't you start off by telling me how you came to live here. You said it was a boarding house before you moved in. When about was that and what brought you here?

**Subject:** I have lived here since I was three years old. Sixty-seven years. And my father was a, he worked for the, first he was their mechanic, Ely Thomas Lumber company. And then he was a work boss in charge of their camp. So, he got married in Montana in 1915 and when they came back from Korea why we lived here.

**Interviewer:** Did you move here because you had family ties or to work at the lumber company or?

**Subject:** He worked for a truck tractor and trailer and hauled lumber.

**Interviewer:** And your family has lived here for awhile, so you have a pretty good image in your mind of what this community was like before they really started to do a lot of strip mining around here?

**Subject:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me a little bit about what that was like compared to what it might have been like during the strip mining and after? What was the community, from what we understand predominantly made up of the lumber industry and families working there.

**Subject:** Yes. Nicholas County, Ely Thomas Lumber company was Nicholas County's biggest employer. Before the coal companies came in.

**Interviewer:** Some one was explaining to us that it was the second largest mill in ah, how did he say?

**Interviewer II:** I forget how that one huh,

**Interviewer:** Second largest mill in, in almost like the Eastern United States or something like that, I think he said.

**Subject II:** That is the biggest lumberyard in the Eastern United States.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. Pretty big and nice huh? So then, when about did the mill close down actually? I don't think I know that.

**Subject:** This one burned in '59.

**Interviewer:** So that was after they had already started to strip mine in here?

**Subject:** Umm, humm. This one here on the hill, Mr. Ely had umm the last part of it, had 'em shut it down because they were blasting and jarring the mill. So, some of it they had left. Not much, but some of the coal there.

**Interviewer:** He had them shut down the strip mining you mean?

**Subject:** Yes. Because of it was... of jarring his mill.

**Interviewer:** So then, when the strip mining moved into the area did you, what kind of changes did you notice to the community at that point.

**Subject:** Well not right here, not much. But on down a way the stream started filling up.

**Interviewer:** And that was from them, putting over the land in the holler.

**Subject:** Washing down in the spring.

**Interviewer:** So that had an impact on the physical environment, you know the streams and the flooding?

**Subject:** Oh yes, it is building back up here; it is going to eventually be back up here again.

**Interviewer II:** Do you still think there is sediment being washed down from the spoils or from the mining operations?

**Subject:** Oh there'd have to be.

**Interviewer:** Is there any changes that you saw in the people who lived around here? Where there, for example did they hire a lot of people from the community to work at the mines or did the people move in?

**Subject II:** Well, the mines, there are some big mines around Tioga. On up the road up here was a big mine and things and there was a lot of people that worked. But then after they got the machinery and strip mining doesn't hire them...

**Interviewer:** Those people mostly moved out to find other jobs?

**Subject II:** Oh yeah. The young people though.

**Interviewer II:** So the older people, you know...

**Subject:** Were still in this County.

**Interviewer II:** ...were sort of established here and didn't want to move out because they owned property or had ties to the area verses the younger people who were and, had more of an opportunity to move outside for employment I guess.

**Subject:** Yeah they needed jobs, so they moved out.

**Interviewer:** What other kinds of physical impacts or changes did you see? Did you, did your house shake from the blasting?

**Subject:** Well, one time we had one episode where they blew rocks down and came from across the side road and we had to get on them about that. They came down to see about, that is when "specific name" ran the company.

**Interviewer II:** Who did you, did you actually contact this mine operator up here? How did you know who to contact?

**Subject II:** This use to be Island Creek when they were doing that. And they were pretty good.

**Subject:** The had lots of stuff at Craigsville, down to 7 miles up the road. Than ah ....

**Subject II:** But their tippie and everything was on back then on this mountain, so we didn't have much dust from tippie.

**Interviewer II:** Right.

**Subject:** When they came right around this edge we did, they worked on our chimney. Some that blasting did and then when they blew that rock down.

**Interviewer:** But they came, you say they came and worked on your chimney when you talked to them about it or?

**Subject II:** No we never bother to talked to them about the chimney.

**Subject:** Not until they washed out our road.

**Interviewer:** Did you not bother about the chimney because you figured they weren't going to do anything about it or.... Just figured it wasn't that big of a deal?

**Subject:** Oh, it was pretty hard to prove whether they did it or not. You can hear things rattle in the house when they sent off a blast but you couldn't really prove they cracked the chimney.

**Interviewer II:** You couldn't prove what was there before and after a certain time period.

**Subject II:** Anyhow we never bothered too much. As long as it didn't bother us directly. It didn't make too much difference. Though there was a lot of people at that time working.

**Interviewer II:** Now was your water supply then affected would you say?

**Subject:** Well after they ah, they use to use this holler, they used the water that came out of it. When they had a boarding house here. But after they put the coalmines in it ruined the water. You couldn't use it.

**Interviewer II:** Where do you folks get your water from now?

**Subject:** We have a well. We have a ... How many foot well?

**Subject II:** We just have a well out there out back.

**Subject:** That's a well house. Where you come in, that is a well house. And it is deep. What 75 feet? And it is down to a stream it goes through.

**Interviewer II:** You don't have any problems with your water then now?

**Subject:** Not now.

**Interviewer:** But you didn't have, you were on that well, you were on that well system when they were right up here on the ridge? Even doing their work? Have any problems with it then?

**Subject:** Other than the water being yellow. It had some iron in it.

**Subject II:** Too much iron in it. But that doesn't maybe, probably had something to do with the mines up there. That was all deep mine most of it. And then they come through and took out, took of the tops of the deep mines to get the coal that they left.

**Interviewer:** Did you do any work for the deep mines? In here?

**Subject II:** I never worked in the mines. I don't haul coal. I hauled a little bit from the backside of the mountain, a time or two. My boss had me haul some. After that flood, I think they donated some coal to the people that had been flooded out in Webster County. My boss donated the trucks and we went and hauled some coal up to Webster County.

**Interviewer II:** Which flood was that? When was that?

**Subject:** It has been a long time.

**Subject II:** The Gauley River.

**Interviewer II:** Was this Agnes? Back in the seventies?

**Subject:** It seemed back then, right “ specific name”?

**Subject II:** Yeah it was in sometime in the seventies.

**Interviewer II:** Probably Agnes, Hurricane Agnes, that came through. It seemed like it ...

**Subject:** No, I don't think it, I don't believe it had a hurricane or anything connected to it. It just rained 18 inches.

**Interviewer II:** Oh, okay

**Subject II:** It rained up in the headwaters of the Greenbrier River.

**Interviewer II:** That would cause some damage.

**Subject II:** It always makes it really bad for a while. Just too much rain up the river.

**Interviewer II:** Sure. Exactly.

**Subject II:** Hadn't been any rain like that for a long time. So people that moved in were afraid.

**Interviewer:** Did ah, did you all notice any specific benefits form the industry being here? You know did they build a company store that was more convenient for you or did the schools improve or anything like that?

**Subject:** Well, there one time they had a thing in Charlestown Gazette that Nicholas County was one of the richest counties in the state. Some of the homes around that was built by people that had coal, you know, millionaires and stuff like that, you know...

**Interviewer:** So you have read about some benefits to the whole county but you don't necessarily know of any in Werth?

**Subject:** No.

**Subject II:** Yeah there just wasn't any ... There are a few people that lived here now and then that worked in the mines or something. Didn't have too much direct contact with them. I went to work after the mill burnt down, and the company sold out what they had, I went to work for the coal

company. Well it was a trucking company that hauled down below Summersville. It was the deep mines we hauled out of.

**Interviewer II:** So, that was your change of employment from working for the lumber company over here, when that went out of business from the fire, I assume, then you got employment with the coal companies transporting coal for them?

**Subject II:** Yeah I had already been driving a truck about 13 years when they...

**Interviewer II:** You had the experience that they needed?

**Subject II:** So, I got a job driving truck for the coal company.

**Interviewer:** What umm, what else can you tell me about, you know... after the coal companies left, how would you say the community changed from that period? You know what I mean? There were people living here, a few of them working for the mines, when they were mining and you had, you know, the physical impacts like blasting and things like that, did it ... Did any of the benefits carry over after they left or did it just get better in terms of physical impacts? What would you say? Were there any changes from that sort of transition period?

**Subject:** Well, we lost a school down here. The umm, all the young people grew up and moved away.

**Interviewer:** Had any of them been employed with the coal company? That you could say 'Well, when the coal company left they lost those jobs and moved away and therefore the school had to close?'

**Subject:** I don't think that that many of them; some of them was employed by the coal companies. But up and down through here we are just all getting older and nobody sells any of their land and so...

**Interviewer:** There aren't any more kids to go to school?

**Subject:** And the kids just grew up like ours done. He is like....he married a girl from Pittsburgh, by the way. And they both teach school in Parkersburg now.

**Interviewer:** So, really most of them moved away for jobs?

**Subject II:** Most of them. The ones that didn't want to work in the mines left.

**Subject:** Well, when they went to college, there wasn't anything around here for them to do. I know my granddaughter went to, she is up next to Washington, which isn't a good place to be right now.

**Interviewer:** A little scary, yeah.

**Subject:** But she works for a computer company in human resource management. She is a hire and fire. (Laughter)

**Interviewer II:** She's got the fun job.

**Subject:** She had to lay off a bunch here last week.

**Interviewer II:** Oh boy, she makes some tough decisions.

**Subject:** Yeah.

**Interviewer II:** What was, in terms of, during that activity about fifty years ago the, you would say that the lumber company was the largest employer and the mining company, the mining operations came in and they became the largest employer. Is that what you had said before?

**Subject:** No.

**Interviewer II:** After the mines went away then what was the major employment around here? Is that sort of, it is sort of a unique second trans... situation, where the lumber company really wasn't around because of what had happened there. So it's almost a real, I am looking at it as a real hardship for this area because the mines went away, the lumber company burned down, so what did people do then after that time maybe in the '60s and '70s what did you do for employment? I know what you did ...

**Subject:** I worked for the Board of Education.

**Interviewer:** All the way through that period?

**Subject:** Yeah. I started in '69.

**Interviewer II:** But what was the major, where did people that lived here, where did they go for their employment or ...?

**Subject II:** Whatever mines were working. Different places. This one didn't go out 'til ...

**Subject:** This one back up in here just went out in the last... well they are working some now, over in there. Out back over in there. But I don't think, what they do here was they closed down and then they open up a little with bit with non-union miners. And that is what they did.

**Subject II:** What is the bank there on the corner on cemetery road where Farmer's America use to be? What is the name of it now?

**Subject:** The BB&T.

**Subject II:** If you go in there you can see some of the pictures of the miners that worked in this area.

**Interviewer II:** Oh interesting.

**Subject:** They have these long pictures.

**Subject II:** They have these long pictures of the whole crew that was out.

**Interviewer II:** Like the panoramic type.

**Subject:** Yeah.

**Subject II:** They was sitting out in front of the mines either in the morning or evening, sometime.

**Interviewer II:** So some people actually continued to work up at this mining operation?

**Subject:** Yeah, until not too many years ago.

**Interviewer II:** But what did the majority of the people that lived around in this area what did they do after the majority of the mining activity left? Because we had mentioned before that once the heavy equipment started to be used then the employment, the amount of labor that that you needed wasn't as, the need wasn't there to have a lot of, you know, labor to be involved in the mining operations, maybe what it use to be at one time. Do you have a sense for what local employment was? Where people worked?

**Subject II:** Well it went down in West Virginia - all over. The population, there for a while was going down. And they went to North Carolina, Ohio ...

**Subject:** Fast food places - work around down at Summersville. You got all kind of fast food places and motels and ...

**Interviewer:** So they are working at those commercial places down in other cities close by? Like Summersville and maybe go up to even as far as?

**Subject II:** There are several still works in woods and things and they won't leave this country. They built a mill, you know right on down by Roywood in Summersville.



**Subject:** That one down here, yeah it is a big operation.

**Interviewer II:** Where do they get their lumber? They actually go with the mining companies? Because there is a lot of timber there to be harvested in these mountaintop mining operations, do they get their lumber from..?

**Subject:** I don't think so.

**Subject:** Ah they use to get it from; they still buy it from some of the holdings of the lumber or ah coal companies. They still probably some of them buys from them.

**Interviewer II:** But they have their own properties that they ah ...

**Subject II:** They got to have some property and then a lot of it is just brought in. The logs are just brought in by independent truckers. I suppose some of them buy and sell, buy logs and timber and stuff. Because, there are a lot of different trucks that comes in here.

**Subject:** This kind of a mill now aren't any more. It's got two, they have compartments for them to sit in and they just push buttons.

**Interviewer II:** They are all laser-guided saws now a day. It is really amazing how times have changed.

**Subject:** That what it is.

**Subject II:** You have this double band mill coming now. And they don't employ near as many as the old mill like this here. They really can't afford it. For the lumber to sell for that high. They don't stack lumber any more. They like stack it when it comes out of the mill, but they don't dry it or anything.

**Interviewer II:** Yeah, at that time with the stacks, the smoke stacks on that picture they had a kiln or something there?

**Subject II:** Yeah, well they run the mill with steam.

**Interviewer II:** That is true. The run the mill with steam and that what?

**Subject II:** That is what the smoke stack is for.

**Interviewer II:** They didn't actually have a kiln there that they used?

**Subject II:** Not at this mill, they had one at Fenway. They had a motor....

**Subject:** They have two mills.

**Subject II:** They kept it in the yard 30 to 60 days. The lumber, to let it dry out. And before they sold most of it.

**Interviewer II:** They sold it.

**Subject II:** So it was all stacked behind here. Didn't have any end-loaders then. They laid it on the truck by hand.

**Interviewer II:** A lot of hard work I am sure. A lot of splinters to be had.

**Subject:** The wages back then was low really. I think your dad worked for almost 50 cents an hour, didn't he?

**Subject:** He worked 10 hours a day, \$2 a day when it first started here in the 30s.

**Interviewer II:** That was the depression time too.

**Subject:** Yeah. Yeah in the 30s. He was glad to have that \$2 a day.

**Subject II:** Companies just don't stay any more. They don't want to stay anymore. That what happens to the jobs, people just, ... that is why they are wandering all over the country, hunting jobs you see.

**Interviewer II:** Go where the labor pools are at.

**Subject II:** Yeah you don't know when you work for a company whether it is going to last or not. It may last five years it may last ten or fifteen. But not very many of them any more last thirty or forty.

**Interviewer II:** Yeah it is really hard to find a lot of big old companies around, like G.E. or whomever you know, that stood the test of time. These small start up companies, boy you have to wonder how long they are going to stay in business and how lucrative they could be.

**Subject:** Well you can't depend on that. A cousin worked for RCA and he got moved, was laid off from them, several years ago. They just, everybody that had worked under so many years, ten something like that, and he had worked for a little under ten. And they said well they didn't want to lay him off be he was under the guidelines, so... He had to find somewhere else to go. That was when you didn't think about RCA being, ...

**Interviewer:** Yeah. They were a good business.

**Interviewer II:** Exactly.

**Subject:** So you can't depend on any company now.

**Interviewer II:** So over all you didn't, probably, you folks didn't really see any direct benefit from having the mine here, whether or not it was a good or bad thing? But there was really no benefit that you got from it?

**Subject:** Not ah, no. Of course we didn't work for them or anything...

**Subject II:** Never worked in the mines...

**Interviewer II:** Mostly in this community, it sounds like from the people we have talked to, never really had any benefits from the mines being here, except for the few that might have actually worked for the mines.

**Subject II:** Yeah the ones that worked for it.

**Interviewer II:** But ah, do you know of, do you have any senses of how many people in this area may have worked for the mines. Actually had direct benefit from it, because that was their job? At lot, many, very few?

**Subject:** Did you all talk to the people down next door? I can't remember their name. In the next hollow. Did you all talk to them? He worked up here.

**Interviewer:** No we haven't spoken to any one yet who worked up here. We got the names, I don't know if I remember if I told you or not, we ... the handful of people we're talking to were just selected at random from the people who own property in here. You know we, there are records at the county courthouses who owns the property.

**Subject:** Well he owns his property.

**Interviewer:** Well his name might have been on there but his name might not have been selected at random. You know we didn't...

**Subject II:** It wouldn't, his house didn't make the long list.

**Subject:** He would of have had more idea of how many from around here might have worked up there.

**Subject II:** Yeah there were a lot of them that went up that hill in the morning, up there. And we had no idea how.

**Interviewer II:** Had no idea where they might have come from?

**Subject:** No. No.

**Subject II:** No, they was from all around.

**Interviewer II:** So it wasn't like the local population here benefited as a whole because that is where their jobs came from. It doesn't, from what we're saying, ...

**Subject II:** Well, after everybody had got an automobile, after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and the distance didn't matter much when this place come here and went to work. They stayed here. This building right here, and they worked at the mill and things like that.

**Subject:** And went home on the weekends.

**Subject II:** Now if you could go over around Widen, you could really get you some stories. If you found some of the older people from Widen. Once they had a hospital and school, company houses, it was a town over there a mining town.

**Interviewer II:** Yeah, that's interesting. We've heard that story too where a coal company comes in, there is basically nothing there; they actually set up a town almost, for their workers. That's some of the unique cases that we've, ...

**Subject:** Hospital the whole works. Whole town works there, and he didn't want them to leave.

**Subject II:** Tioga was sort of a mining town too. That's just up the roadway from here. I have been through Tioga logging stuff, but I never, ... We hauled the logs, some of the logs out of that country back in there where they did the mines.

**Interviewer:** Now was Tioga and Widen were those towns mostly built up from the underground mining.

**Subject:** Underground mines yeah. When they started this, however, I remember when they put the dam in down here, Summersville Dam, they said that, Mrs. Johnson, they came in you now to dedicate it and she said, "What's all those rings on the hill?" As they said she said. That's about the time they started doing all of that. That was a mess and it is really sickening to see it. Piles of mounds out here. Oh, it looked like a moonscape, when they did that.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, we noticed as we were coming down 19 you could see now that it is all covered in grass and kind of, ...

**Subject:** When you first seen it, ohhh, It was horrible.

**Interviewer II:** What umm, you said that you, you of course had steady work hauling and driving a truck during that time that they were mining here, right up above you. Did the company ever talk to you about purchasing your home or buying you out from the impact or any thing else like that?

**Subject II:** No they never said anything about that.

**Interviewer:** Did you have any interaction with the company before they came into mine? Did they talk to the community? Or how did you find out? Did you read about notices in the paper or things like that?

**Subject II:** Oh they sent you notices they was going to blast.

**Interviewer:** Oh they did? They sent it to your house or... ?

**Subject II:** They sent it in the mail, registered letters. You could go to the post office and pick it up if you wasn't home when the mail boy comes with it.

**Interviewer:** They still do that at our, once in awhile I get a registered letter I have to go and pick up because I can't get it in my mailbox. And ah, where I live. So, so you never, do you ever see those now? Those permits postings in the newspaper?

**Subject:** They put a thing in the newspaper.

**Subject II:** I look at them once in awhile but most of them are out of our district anymore, so I don't pay much attention to them.

**Interviewer:** They put them in the local paper or in the...?

**Subject II:** Oh, they put them in, this Chronicle and the Charlestown Gazette, too. I think of all the times, where they were applying for permits and stuff.

**Interviewer:** So, but mostly you found out what was going on because they sent you a letter or because you saw it happening?

**Subject II:** Well it was, they didn't, they didn't do, they didn't go around, I don't think, to everybody and everything back then. They just started out, more or less just grew into stripping. They started out mining and then they, wanted more of the coal out so, it just grew into a strip job.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever think about leaving here because of what was going on?

**Subject II:** Oh I never guess particularly no. 'Cause it was going on all around us.

**Subject:** Know what there was a little coal mine up here for years. Somebody had one up here; “specific name” had one. I had one up here for years.

**Interviewer II:** Is that the under ground mine you still see the equipment, like the elevator?

**Subject:** No, No. That is up above it.

**Subject II:** Yeah that is “specific name”.

**Subject:** But ah no, it is on down this way. Where that nice house is. Right there beside of it. They had one for years, you know, but you never knew anything about it. There was no blasting around or anything.

**Interviewer:** Right. Right.

**Subject II:** Well there is all kinds of deep mines like this but,...

**Subject:** Back in through there I guess.

**Subject II:** This hill up here, and then they wanted the coal that was left so they stripped it off.

**Subject:** And I don’t know what they ever finished stripping all of it or not, cause of that 21 foot seam they said they had. They never, ... they said they’d be there for years and they weren’t there that many ...

**Subject II:** They stripped what was up here I think. It’s gone. They owned clear to Powell Mountain to the mountaintop.

**Interviewer II:** So other than the water erosion coming down, the water runoff, down the holler here, that was probably your major impact from the mining operations? Is that correct?

**Subject II:** Never bother us more than anything else around here.

**Interviewer II:** Some of the smaller things might have been some of the blasting and maybe some of the rocks that might have been flying down off the hillside there.

**Subject II:** Yeah, but it never did hit our house here. It hit one of the others over there at one time. But it hit the ground and rolled into the ...

**Interviewer II:** Was it a pretty sizable rock that might have caused some pretty good damage?

**Subject II:** Oh, if it had hit on the roof it would have.

**Interviewer II:** It would have gone through the roof.

**Interviewer:** That's fortunate then that it didn't.

**Interviewer II:** Exactly.

**Subject II:** But that has happened in this country from roads and strip mines and everything. But we don't have any coasters yet.

**Interviewer II:** What do you like most about this area in terms of Werth itself and the entire area that you live in and have lived in for many years?

**Subject II:** Oh, it just got to be home.

**Interviewer II:** What you call home.

**Subject II:** Yeah, we have another place but we just never,... got use to this one here.

**Subject:** We have property in another county, over in there.

**Interviewer II:** This is where you call home though?

**Subject II:** Yeah, we have been here since I got out of the service in '53.

**Interviewer:** And you never thought about moving there even though you have that property, huh?

**Subject:** Well, we thought about it.

**Subject II:** We thought about it for a time or two.

**Subject:** Just couldn't get going.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Yeah. So you seem to be settled in one place. You don't really want to pick up and move.

**Subject:** We've got so much here.

**Interviewer:** I know that feeling.

**Subject II:** Well we both stayed here until we retired.

**Interviewer II:** I know the feeling. My wife and I just got done moving into our first home and ah, and I think we are ready to stay there as long as it takes so we don't have to pack things up again and move it. That is a job and a half. That is a deterrent not to move. Is all the work you have to do to pack stuff up.

**Subject II:** Packing stuff is her favorite work. The garage is full. The basement is full.

**Interviewer II:** A lot of stuff.

**Interviewer:** Well you know, I think we covered pretty much...

**Interviewer II:** Off the list of questions, we've gone over about everything we wanted to try and talk to you about today.

**Interviewer:** Was there anything else that you wanted to tell us or talk about.

**Subject II:** I don't know. We tried to get along with everybody around, you know. We never bothered the companies much. Bothered us a whole lot but...

**Interviewer II:** Over all, like I said you didn't have much impact other than the storm water run-off, up, down the hollow. You didn't really have much impact from the mining operations.

**Subject II:** No, not much I guess.

**Interviewer II:** Now, we still had another topic, the sawmill itself, I mean that was your mainstay of employment to begin with. But ah ...

**Subject II:** Yeah that is what brought me to this place.

**Interviewer II:** How many workers worked at the mill, in its hay day, if you will?

**Subject II:** "specific name" would know more reliably.

**Subject:** Oh no.

**Subject II:** Yes, you did dear. Owned witch camps for a long time.

**Subject:** And their own trucking, had about 12 or 14 truckers and they had ...

**Interviewer II:** They would all come into this facility, this plant down here, right?

**Subject:** Yeah. And they would bring in the logs and then they had a couple that worked in the mill and down in the... unload the lumber down on the set.



**Subject II:** They had two, I think they had two wet lumber crews and two dry lumber crews and loaded the lumber out.

**Subject:** “Specific name”, “specific name” was in charge of them. What was he in charge of? He’s in charge of the, umm, what part of that?

**Subject II:** Who?

**Subject:** “Specific Name.”

**Subject II:** In the mill, framing mill.

**Subject:** Framing mill. So it is framing mill and then .... At one time they had a steam engine ran back behind here. And that shop there to the right, was big enough to run a steam engine in to repair it. So they had a repair crew and they repaired anything about the mill. And then that’s what I’m talking about the saw stop was.

**Subject II:** We had two or three carpenter crews.

**Interviewer II:** Sharpen the saw blades.

**Subject:** Un huh. A lot of people.

**Interviewer:** Sounds like a couple hundred people maybe even. Or at least...

**Subject:** It was a lot. With the work crews and everything else.

**Interviewer II:** The reason I asked is I am just sort of curious. You had such a big operation there at one time, we don’t know where those people came from that worked there. Did they live right around?

**Subject II:** Well most of them come in with the mill. A lot of them came from...

**Interviewer II:** Other places in the area?

**Subject II:** One of the mills in where the mill was before.

**Subject:** He moved it over from Upshire County. That’s over in, whether you know, Cannon or not. But he came from over there, “specific name”. And he drove in from over there and a lot of people moved with it. My parents did and a lot of people that came, came ...

**Interviewer II:** Now, where did they live at then, when they came to this area where did they set up, make their home?

**Subject:** Well they had the houses down in the... A lot of the men... this was a boarding house...

**Subject II:** It had fourteen rooms on top.

**Subject:** Thirteen rooms and a bath. Thirteen rooms and a bath.

**Interviewer:** My goodness. Is it still up-to date.

**Subject:** No we cut it off. We cut it down.

**Interviewer II:** So there was more stories to this than what there is currently now?

**Subject II:** Yeah, there was another story on top and it was sixty feet long. And it just was roomed off.

**Interviewer II:** Yes, this is really a nice.

**Subject:** And the men stayed in it and then they went home on weekends. They carpooled.

**Interviewer II:** Ah, so they stayed here during the week and they actually lived outside the area. Their families, wife and children ...

**Subject:** And then there was the store building they had their own store across the road. They had a store building and an office building and up over them was rooms.

**Interviewer II:** Oh interesting.

**Interviewer:** Even more.

**Subject:** And then they had a yes, their garage where they worked on their trucks and stuff and they had an apartment over it. And that is where we lived. In an apartment right there.

**Interviewer II:** Seems like the lumber industry around, at least for Worth is concerned, had more of an impact on the community than possibly what the mining operations did?

**Subject:** Well of course the railway was here longer.

**Interviewer II:** Right. Exactly. That's interesting.

**Interviewer:** You mentioned something called a, I thought you said a witch camp... Is that what you said?

**Subject II:** Witch camp. They had, they took shanty cars and moved them to the woods. They had, well they had them so they were about 10 to 12 feet wide and they would put them on a truck and moved them from place to place. Wherever they were cutting timber they had that. And they would move their camps in there and set them up, the people would stay there that cut timber.

**Interviewer II:** Stayed in the woods where they were cutting their timber.

**Subject II:** Some of them had families somewhere else. They would come and stay. Of course that has been going on since back in the early nineteen hundreds.

**Interviewer II:** Long time ago.

**Interviewer:** I have never heard that term before. That is an unusual ...

**Subject II:** Yeah they called them wooden camps. "Specific name" use to go with her dad to them.

**Subject:** Yeah.

**Interviewer II:** Witch camps today are hunting camps.

**Subject II:** Yeah those like that. Those hunting camps are more elaborate. They just had a ... "specific name's" grandmother cooked at the woods camps, for years.

**Interviewer II:** Oh, interesting. That is very interesting.

**Interviewer:** Well is there anything else that was missed?

**Subject II:** She fixed their meals and everything, whenever they would come in. They would stay there until the next morning. Some of them they called them wood hicks. Some of them were out there for months at a time.

**Interviewer II:** Oh boy, that would be some life to live. I guess that is just what you got use to. You did what you did to make your living and that is how you survived back in those days. Well Alexa, I think we've covered everything. If you folks don't have anything else to add that's fine. We do appreciate you sitting down with us and ...

**Interviewer:** Very much.

**Interviewer II:** Thanks for sharing your home with us for this hour. We really do appreciate it. It takes a lot for having strangers to come in, just to sit down about something that you may or may not have enjoyed in the past. But we do appreciate you talking to us and like I said if you have got any more follow-ups or concerns you know you can call the EPA directly or call one of us, to voice your opinions or concerns, or a follow up. If you think of something that you want to get back to us that is great. We appreciate it.

**Interviewer:** I know, how as you said it is probably frustrating to be telling us the same things...